



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/911,495	07/25/2001	Barbara E. Barenburg	211810US99	4424

22850 7590 12/31/2002

OBLON SPIVAK MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT PC  
FOURTH FLOOR  
1755 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY  
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

EXAMINER

COLEMAN, WILLIAM D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2823

DATE MAILED: 12/31/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/911,495

Applicant(s)

BARENBURG ET AL.

Examiner

W. David Coleman

Art Unit

2823

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 October 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-20 and 22-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-20 and 22-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Double Patenting*

1. Claims 1-8, 10-20 and 22--24 of this application conflict with claims of various Application No. 37 CFR 1.78(b) provides that when two or more applications filed by the same applicant contain conflicting claims, elimination of such claims from all but one application may be required in the absence of good and sufficient reason for their retention during pendency in more than one application. Applicant is required to either cancel the conflicting claims from all but one application or maintain a clear line of demarcation between the applications. See MPEP § 822.

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

3. A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

4. 37 CFR 1.78(b) provides that when two or more applications filed by the same applicant contain conflicting claims, elimination of such claims from all but one application may be required in the absence of good and sufficient reason for their retention during pendency in more than one application.

Art Unit: 2823

5. Double-patenting conflicts exist between claims of the following related issued patents and co-pending applications which includes the present application.

Serial Numbers of Related Issued Patents and Co-pending Applications:

09273929	09755691	09882063	09906138	09911445	09921905	10017596
09274268	09758723	09882064	09906730	09911446	09921910	10020898
09425945	09766046	09882067	09906769	09911447	09921481	10020900
09465623	09780119	09884082	09906782	09911448	09927393	10026446
09584601	09795784	09884149	09906783	09911455	09927396	10026812
09607207	09801881	09884150	09906784	09911456	09928356	10053588
09607236	09813779	09884981	09907703	09911457	09929018	10059409
09607237	09822499	09884982	09907704	09911458	09929019	10059411
09607239	09822499	09884983	09907705	09911459	09929020	10062429
09607386	09824259	09885409	09907707	09911460	09929021	10076450
09607408	09824273	09897059	09908695	09911464	09929022	10091452
09607420	09824376	09897128	09908707	09911465	09929024	10124460
09607434	09824388	09897965	09908860	09911466	09929261	10125410
09607722	09824615	09897968	09908883	09911469	09929748	10125486
09607744	09832354	09899996	09908885	09911472	09930145	10125540
09608807	09838273	09899997	09908886	09911473	09930170	10128262
09609071	09840213	09900882	09908887	09911475	09930171	10134506
09609262	09842734	09900883	09908888	09911478	09930175	10136324
09617640	09842735	09900885	09908891	09911484	09930176	10137369
09621130	09849159	09900887	09908892	09911487	09930188	10137383
09621771	09849172	09900921	09908897	09911488	09930243	10140939
09621779	09852109	09901109	09908898	09911490	09930247	10141876
09624296	09853744	09901110	09908902	09911491	09930254	10145734
09624526	09859700	09901601	09909905	09911492	09930259	10150065
09624690	09861636	09901905	09909906	09911493	09930260	10150066
09624691	09861637	09903740	09909936	09911494	09930261	10151950
09624698	09861638	09903741	09909937	09911495	09930270	10152783
09624699	09861639	09903742	09909938	09911496	09930275	10161743
09624754	09865428	09903743	09909939	09911496	09930276	10166196
09624803	09865429	09903784	09909940	09911507	09930278	
09624877	09865446	09904841	09909941	09911517	09930308	
09625100	09865447	09904892	09910018	09911518	09930444	
09629283	09865448	09904894	09910019	09911539	09934836	
09642558	09865449	09904895	09910020	09911542	09960402	
09656337	09866637	09905098	09910021	09911543	09975930	
09662390	09870589	09905110	09910022	09911627	09978096	
09669602	09870592	09905115	09910023	09911628	09983326	
09678372	09870828	09905116	09910024	09911629	09983854	
09689583	09870829	09905863	09910032	09911691	09983859	
09692568	09870830	09905868	09910034	09911702	09983866	
09712425	09870831	09905869	09910035	09918801	09983869	
09712875	09870832	09905902	09910044	09918802	09984471	
09721566	09870833	09905903	09910753	09919927	09985757	
09733181	09870834	09905930	09910754	09919967	09986024	
09733688	09870835	09905932	09910798	09921894	09986034	
09740219	09870836	09905933	09910799	09921895	09986534	
09740268	09870837	09905934	09911412	09921896	09986899	
09753808	09871958	09905935	09911420	09921898	09993514	
09755340	09874984	09905980	09911429	09921900	09993523	
09755341	09882062	09905981	09911444	09921901	09994066	

Art Unit: 2823

6. While it is true that the Examiner has the burden to show how a rejection is specifically applied to each claim, the exemplary showing with respect to the claims individually discussed below establishes a prima facie showing of the unpatentability of the instant claims and is sufficient to give the applicant fair notice of how the rejection is applied to each and every other claim. Further, an analysis of all of the claims in the approximately 330 related applications would be an extreme burden on the Office requiring millions of claim comparisons. Accordingly, the Office is shifting the burden to the applicants to show, if they can, patentable distinctions between the instant claims and those of the other applications and patents. Specifically, in order to resolve the conflict between applications, applicant is required to:

- (1) file terminal disclaimers in each of the related, applications terminally disclaiming each of the other approximately 330 applications;
- (2) provide a statement attesting to the fact that all claims in the approximately 330 applications have been reviewed by applicant and that no conflicting claims exists between the applications. Applicant should provide all relevant factual information including the specific steps taken to insure that no conflicting claims exist between the applications-, or-,
- (3) resolve all conflicts between the claims in the above identified approximately 330 applications by identifying how all the claims in the instant application are distinct and separate inventions from all of the claims in all of the other approximately 330 identified applications.

Note: the examples provided below are merely illustrative of the overall problem.

7. Only addressing/correcting the specifically identified conflicts would not satisfy the requirement. Further, due Applicant's better familiarity with the related applications, Applicant now has the burden of confirming that the preceding list is accurate and complete, or must take

Art Unit: 2823

appropriate action(s) to assure that no such conflicts exist in any other applications that have been inadvertently omitted from the preceding list, but do in fact possess related subject matter. Applicant is reminded that obviousness-type double patenting analysis entails a two-step process~ (1) the claims of this application and the other approximately 330 applications must be construed; and (2) the claims of this application must be compared with the claims of the other applications to determine whether the differences in subject matter between the two claims render the claims patentably distinct. See *Georgia-Pacific Corp. v. United States Gypsum Co.*, 195 F.3d 1322, 1326, 52 USPQ2d 1590, 1593 (Fed. Cir. 1999), and *General Foods Co[p. v. Studiengesellschaft Kohle*, 972 F.2d 1272, 1279, 23 USPQ2d 1839, 1844 (Fed. Cir. 1992).. "In *re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 943-44, 214 USPQ 761, 766 (CCPA 1982) (brackets and emphasis in the original) (quoting *In re Schneller*, 397 F.2d 350, 354, 158 USPQ 210, 214 (CCPA 1968)).

8. Failure to comply with the above requirement will result in abandonment of the application. However, the requirement will be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter has been indicated by the examiner.

9. While not specifically addressed herein, similar double-patenting conflicts also exist between the product claims of various applications as well. Moreover, while the Office has a long established policy of generally requiring restrictions between semiconductor product claims (class 257) and method claims (class 438) in a given application, this policy does not negate Applicant's responsibility for ensuring that no conflicts exist between those applications presenting product claims and those applications presenting method claims. This is because it is

also well established agency policy that restricted product and method claims may be subject to rejoinder during the course of prosecution. See NWEP 821.04.

*Conclusion*

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

11. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

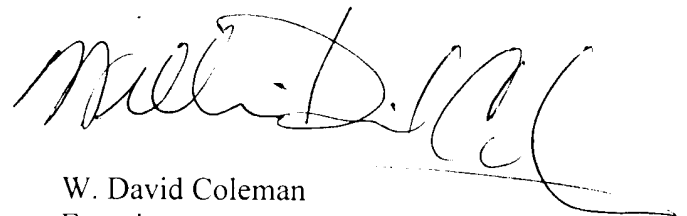
12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to W. David Coleman whose telephone number is 703-305-0004. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.

13. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Olik Chaudhuri can be reached on 703-306-2794. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7721 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

Application/Control Number: 09/911,495  
Art Unit: 2823

Page 7

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. David Coleman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

W. David Coleman  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2823

WDC  
December 28, 2002